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A Comprehensive Academic Integrity (CAI) Framework: An Overview

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Abstract: In this brief overview, I introduce the Comprehensive Academic Integrity (CAI) framework. The CAI framework includes eight (8) overlapping and intertwined elements: (1) everyday ethics, (2) institutional ethics, (3) ethical leadership, (4) professional and collegial ethics; (5) instructional ethics, (6) student academic conduct, (7) research integrity and ethics, and (8) publication ethics. The central argument of this framework is that academic integrity must encompass, but extend beyond, notions of student conduct, and should be considered a foundation of all aspects of education.

Keywords: academic integrity, student conduct, student affairs, research ethics, research integrity, publication ethics, instructional ethics, pedagogy, everyday ethics, experiential learning, definition, ethical decision-making, morals, values, virtues, leadership, equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, justice, decolonization, Indigenization

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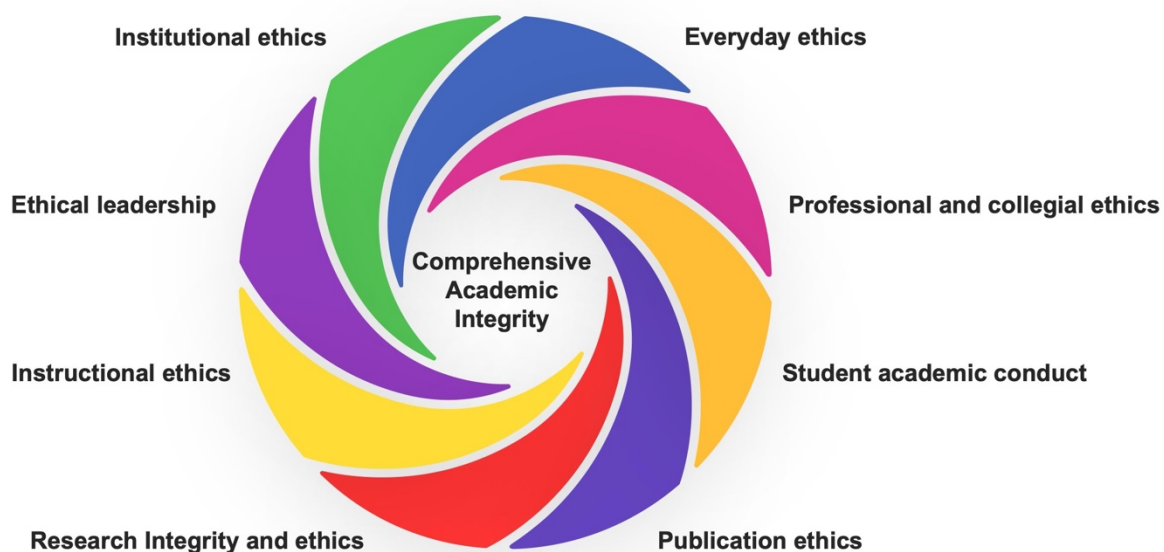
Overview

For years scholars and other experts have called for a more holistic approach to academic integrity (e.g., Bertram Gallant, 2008; Boud & Bearman, 2022; Bretag et al, 2014; Carrol & Duggan, 2005; Löfström et al., 2015; Morris & Carrol, 2016; Turner & Beemsterboer, 2003). The CAI framework synthesizes ideas that have been repeated for decades in various iterations. The central argument behind a wholistic framework is that academic integrity must encompass, but extend beyond, notions of student conduct, and should be considered a foundation of all aspects of education. In this framework, I do not propose a new *definition* of academic integrity in part, because several useful definitions already exist (see Bretag, 2016; ICAI, 2021; Tauginienė et al., 2018). Instead, this framework can be used with existing definitions.

The Comprehensive Academic Integrity (CAI) framework includes eight (8) essential elements that includes, and extends beyond traditional notions of academic integrity merely as a student responsibility:

- everyday ethics
- institutional ethics
- ethical leadership
- professional and collegial ethics
- instructional ethics
- student academic conduct
- research integrity and ethics
- publication ethics

Figure 1. Comprehensive Academic Integrity (CAI) Framework



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